

Alexander Gunyon

From: Maxine Clarke [REDACTED]
Sent: 03 June 2024 10:53
To: Consultations
Subject: Objection to Proposed Housing Development on Brooklands Farm.

Categories: Blue category

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Dear Canterbury Council Planning Authority

My name is Maxine Clarke of [REDACTED]

Objection to Proposed Housing Development on Brooklands Farm.

I am writing to express my strong objection to the proposed housing development on Brooklands Farm, Policy W4 Brooklands Farm.

I object to this application for the following reasons:

- **Environment:** The scale of development in this area is unsustainable. It lacks the infrastructure for traffic, health services and sewage. The site lies outside of the town boundary on good quality agricultural land and will result in the unacceptable loss of open green space. There would be a deterioration of irreplaceable habitats including ancient hedgerows and the Swalecliffe Brook. The significant impact the development would have on the local wildlife and their natural habitats is of grave concern. The destruction of this green space would result in the loss of biodiversity and disrupt the delicate ecosystem that currently thrives in the area. Preserving such natural habitats is essential for maintaining a sustainable environment and ensuring the well-being of future generations. The area is currently classed as rural, any housing developments being built would fundamentally change the character and nature of Brooklands Farm forever.

- **Flooding and Sewerage -** Brooklands Farm's green fields currently act as natural drainage, absorbing excess rainwater during heavy rainfall and reducing the likelihood of flooding. The replacement of these fields with impermeable surfaces such as buildings and roads would disrupt the natural drainage system and potentially exacerbate flooding issues, placing both existing and future residents at risk. It is situated in an area that already faces challenges with flooding & sewage. Southern Water is already over capacity and under investigation by the Environmental Agency. In 2022, the facility in Tankerton that will serve the Brooklands Development had recorded more sewage release than any other part of the county. Unable to cope with the present pressure it is under, with no plan to upgrade current facilities to prevent sewerage leaks into the local rivers, the sea, and local residential areas that are causing serious illnesses to locals and visitors which have made national news. The increased strain on

the existing system due to the additional housing could lead to further overflows, pollution of water sources, (the Swalecliffe Brook also), and a decline in water quality, let alone supplying an additional 1400 houses.

- **Traffic & Transportation:** The roads in and around Brookland Farm and Thanet Way are single A roads and narrow country roads that are unable to cope with the amount of extra traffic that will be created by 3000 plus extra cars, not to mention the pollution and noise. The planned new junctions for the A299 would be dispensing traffic onto roads that are ill-equipped to deal with it. The additional traffic then going through to Chestfield, South Street and Canterbury will create a significant impact on not only the roads and residents in the area, but going to Canterbury, the road goes through ancient woodland, and pollution and noise etc will have a detrimental impact on wildlife. New housing development sites do not allocate sufficient parking for their residents. They do not consider that within a modern-day household, you have at least two vehicles at a minimum. Walking around local new developments such as Olympia Way you can see vehicles parked on pavements, creating a dangerous environment for children, parents with prams vulnerable residents with mobility issues and emergency services trying to gain access.
- **Crime:** With the added housing in and around Whitstable there is a lack of crime prevention with no thought or consideration being made to reopen a local police station. With the current volume of housing, we are experiencing a higher level of anti-social behaviour, drink and drug issues, theft, and burglary especially in and around the beach areas, during the summer months with teenagers across the county descending onto the area.
- **Local amenities –** As a local resident I am already struggling to secure appointments at my local doctor and dentist surgeries. With extended wait periods, a lack of funding and a decline in staff, building yet another housing development could lead to an increased strain on these services.

It is essential to thoroughly evaluate and address these concerns to avoid any negative consequences for both residents and the environment. Whitstable is a small fishing town village, not only are you changing the demographic of the local town but destroying its heritage.

In conclusion, I strongly urge you to reconsider the proposed housing development on Brooklands Farm. The preservation of this green field site, the mitigation of sewage issues, the protection of wildlife and their habitats, and the prevention of flooding should be of utmost importance. It is crucial to explore alternative options that prioritise sustainable development and do not compromise the well-being of our community and environment.

Thank you for considering these concerns and taking the appropriate action.

Yours sincerely,

Maxine Clarke

Sent from my iPhone